

# **Travel With Kate Books**

By: Melissa S. Martin

**Purpose:** To familiarize the students with various landmarks and other points of interest around the United States through postcards.

**Estimated Time:** Varies depending on unit (could be one day or a week)

**Grade Level:** 3 – 9

## **National Geography Standards Addressed:**

- Standard 1: How to use maps and other geographic representations, tools, and technologies to acquire, process, and report information from a spatial perspective.
- Standard 4: The physical and human characteristics of places.
- Standard 6: How culture and experience influence people's perception of places and regions.

## **Indiana Social Studies Standards Addressed:**

- 3.3.3: Explain that regions are areas which have similar physical and cultural characteristics, locate the local community in as specific region.
- 5.3.2: Name and locate states, major cities, major regions, major rivers and mountain ranges in the United States.

**Objectives:** Upon completion of this lesson/unit, students will...

1. be able to identify various regions of the United States.
2. be able to locate significant landmarks and other points of interest.
3. be able to write a short, but concise description of a place postcard style.
4. be able to properly address a postcard.

## **Materials Required:**

*Kate* Books by Pat Brisson (currently out of print – check your local library or Amazon.com)  
Postcard template  
Copies of postcard template for each student or blank index cards  
Atlases of the United States  
Markers/crayons  
Pens/pencils  
Map of the United States

## **Procedures:**

1. Begin by reading one of *Kate's Journeys*.  
(*Your Best Friend Kate*, *Kate Heads West*, or *Kate on the Coast*)
2. Have students think of a place they have traveled or wish to travel

3. Give the students time to browse their atlases or other materials to find their place.
4. Once they have decided on a place, have them choose whom they would like to send their postcard.
5. Next the students should write about their destination being sure they are concise, accurate, and informative.
6. When the descriptions are finished, they will need to complete the picture on the front of their postcard.
7. Sharing time.
8. Display all of the postcards or they may be mailed to the recipient.

**Adaptations/Extensions:**

1. Have students create an entire trip with five to six destinations.
2. Link the entire class's postcards into one giant trip.
3. Have students draw their trip onto an outline map of the U.S.
4. Begin a collection of postcards from friends and relatives and create a bulletin board.
5. Create e-postcards.
6. Exchange e-postcards with other students from schools around the country.
7. Possibilities are endless!!!

**Assessment:**

Completed postcards and ability to locate and describe their specific destination.

\*Other books that could be used with this lesson...

*Toot and Puddle* by Holly Hobbie

*Stringbean's Trip to the Shining Sea* by Vera B. Williams

Note to the teacher:

Many National Parks, Points of Interest, and other landmarks have e-postcards on their websites. Happy e-mailing!